

The Watermark

AHLF Membership Form

Return this page with check to: Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation, 1580 Cannon Road, Carlsbad, CA 92008
(760) 804-1969 • www.aguahedionda.org

Name _____

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City _____

Phone (_____) _____

For renewals, please correct your label if necessary.

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Leadership Societies (Lifetime Membership)

Guardians of the Lagoon

I am considering a donation of \$10,000 or greater. Please contact me about becoming a Guardian of the Lagoon.

Sentinels of the Lagoon

- \$5,000 Sentinel
- \$2,500 Benefactor
- \$1,000 Patron

General Membership

Friends of the Lagoon

- \$500 Sustaining Member
- \$250 Community Member
- \$100 Friendship Member
- \$50 Contributing Member
- \$35 Family Member
- \$25 Individual Member

When renewing your membership, please check off your area or areas of interest, including

- Boating
- Trails
- Ecology
- Wetlands preservation
- The lagoon, or the watershed
- Commercial uses
- Discovery Center
- Invasive Species eradication
- Other _____

Thank you for your generous contribution!
The Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization. *Your contribution is fully tax deductible.*



Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation
1580 Cannon Road, Carlsbad, CA 92008
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation was established as a non-profit corporation in 1990, to help conserve, restore and enhance the environmental features of the Agua Hedionda Lagoon, marsh wetlands and watershed area, to protect sensitive land through acquisition or other means and to promote balanced recreational and commercial uses consistent with assured future lagoon vitality. The foundation serves as an advocate for the lagoon and is a strong supporter of public access, trails and recreational opportunities.

It co-promotes twice annual clean-up days. Members receive a quarterly newsletter, *The Watermark*, and can enjoy Foundation sponsored tours of the Carlsbad Aquafarm mussel growing facility and the Hubbs-Seaworld sea bass nursery. The Foundation welcomes volunteer participation on its committees, including the Trails, Lagoon Discovery Center, Recreation, Dredging, Fundraising and Communication committees, and, of course, on clean-up days!

Enjoy this complimentary copy of *the Watermark*, and consider making a donation today!

A special thank you goes out to *ViaSat for printing, and to Design Group West for design and layout of this edition of the Watermark!*

AHLF Launches School Programs with Kelly Elementary



A pilot partnership between the AHLF and Kelly Elementary School has planted the seeds for a robust outdoor natural history program augmenting the existing 3rd grade California school curriculum. In Fall 2006, approximately 100 3rd graders from Kelly School visited



Budding botanists from Kelly School explore the sights and smells of the native garden

the Discovery Center on two separate occasions. During their first visit, the students were introduced to the basics of archaeology and went on a real-life "dig" where they

unearthed "ancient" and "modern" artifacts from a site near the lagoon. They also studied the history of the lagoon and learned to identify several odiferous plant species in the Center's native garden using their sense of smell. The budding botanists explored the field of ethnobotany - the study of the many ways that native plants

were used by the original inhabitants of the lagoon, the Luiseno Indians. (Future AHLF newsletters, as well as the interpretive signs currently in production for the native garden, will provide more information on this fascinating area of study.) The students also learned about rock art - pictographs and petroglyphs - and the destruction caused by vandalism to these ancient valuable relics. As a grand finale, the students painted their own rock art which they took home as a souvenir of their visit to the Discovery Center.

For the second session, replicas of Luiseno clothing, toys, hunting artifacts and cooking utensils were created especially for the program by a Luiseno scholar, and graciously paid for by the Kelly School PTA. Students rotated through five stations, with each station set up to depict various aspects of A Day in the Life of a Luiseno Child. Included were: how to weave rope from plant fibers; the ancient practice of grinding acorns into meal; games and toys used by young Luiseno children; music and ceremonial customs, and finally, a "hunting" expedition where children learned about ancient spears and trapping techniques for catching "supper." All activities included hands-on participation by the students. Capping off the morning were Indian folklore tales narrated by a Native-American storyteller.

A spring program is in the planning stages with the theme of lagoon ecology and wildlife. ☞



President's Message - 2006 Review and Our Plan for 2007

This past year has been very exciting for the Foundation, as we gain momentum with our exposure and growth. 2006 was my first year serving as President, and it has been quite an experience in many satisfying ways. Most satisfying was seeing the community value and importance of our lagoons get more visibility and support. Some of the highlights of 2006 for AHLF include:

- Eradication of *Caulerpa taxifolia*: Formally declared eradicated on July 12, 2006 by the California Department of Fish and Game, we celebrated a global-first in this successful effort. This story and the overall message of invasive species will continue to be a core part of our Foundation.
- Earth Day Opening of Discovery Center: On April 22, 2006, Earth Day was celebrated with the opening of the DC. We were honored to have the attendance of Mayor Lewis, Councilmembers Ann Kulchin and Matt Hall, the Luiseno Nation, and the general public for our biggest event yet.
- Discovery Center Native Garden: AHLF Lifetime Member Greg Rubin is a leading native plant expert and has chosen our location to showcase the variety and beauty of native plants and landscaping.
- New Partnerships: The Foundation has initiated partnerships on various fronts to accelerate our growth, mission and exposure.
- Trail Development: The AHL Foundation has been working to secure trail easements in coordination with the City of Carlsbad and the State Coastal Conservancy. The overall development of a trails network around Agua Hedionda Lagoon is a recognized community objective that we are committed to promoting in concert with the City of Carlsbad, the California Department of Fish and Game and affected property owners. We need strong community support for the development of Lagoon trails in 2007.
- Financial Stability and Fundraising: In 2007, the AHL Foundation will set up an account with the San Diego Foundation so that we can benefit from the resources and exposure that this partnership will facilitate. Other community foundations and funding sources will also be assessed.
- DC Improvements and Projects: The nuts and bolts of what we have to offer the community will be our Discovery Center and related exhibits, programs, and opportunities for public use. We received a \$386,000 city grant for the DC.

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In summary, 2007 will be the year that we lay the seeds for our financial sustainability, and align ourselves with community expectations while satisfying Foundation objectives. Caring for our lagoons promotes quality of life. Feel free to send your ideas on how to further the growth of our Foundation to me directly at: president@aguahedionda.org.

*Eric Munoz
President – AHL Foundation*

We are grateful for the support of new and returning members of our Foundation:

Guardians of the Lagoon

(\$10,000 annually):

NRG Energy/Cabrillo Power

Sustaining Members (\$500 annually):

Rebecca Brown & Ed Rose

Friendship Members (\$100 annually):

Patricia Adams

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Family Members (\$35 annually):

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Chuck Pateros

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Gunnar Biggs

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Discovery Center to Host 1st Annual World Water Festival

Join us on Sunday, March 25th from 10am–4pm as we celebrate World Water Day with a day-long festival filled with lively and fun educational opportunities for the whole family. The events will include: talks on water-related themes, water-related crafts for the kids, educational shows by Dr. Zoolittle, prizes and giveaways; live wildlife, booths and displays relating to various water issues, and a preview of the African Rain Dance

show featured at the San Diego Wild Animal Park. The event is free but parking will be limited, so please try to carpool with your neighbors. Refreshments will be served. Co-sponsored by AHLEF, Eco-Life Foundation and the San Diego Zoo with additional funding provided by Poseidon Resources and Metropolitan Water District. Come and learn all about our most precious resource!

Where Have All the Frogs Gone?



better understanding of our amphibian crisis.

In 2002, the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) joined forces with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to create Frogwatch USA, an exciting amphibian conservation initiative which trains volunteers to conduct long term frog and toad monitoring in their neighborhoods.

Amphibians, such as frogs and toads, have porous skin that makes them especially sensitive to changes in their environment. As their lifecycle requires both aquatic and terrestrial habitats, these vulnerable creatures are among the first to suffer the consequences of environmental threats such as pollution, destruction of wetlands and other habitats, non-native species introduction, and increased ultraviolet radiation. Over 200 amphibian species from around the world have experienced recent population declines. Amphibians are frequently referred to as “canaries in a coal mine” – indicators of larger, broader environmental problems. Therefore, it is essential that we gain a

Frogwatch volunteers are trained to identify frogs and toads by their sounds and to record the data they collect. The results of their monitoring efforts are submitted to USGS scientists who use the information to develop improved strategies for conserving threatened amphibian populations. Volunteers will gain a greater appreciation for the diversity of frog and toad species and a greater understanding of the importance of protecting wetland habitats.

The Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation will be hosting a Frogwatch USA workshop on Saturday, April 28th from 9am–1pm. As an introduction to this workshop, author and noted

Freeze-Dried Frustration

For many residents of Carlsbad, the warm weather brought by the Santa Ana winds is one of the pleasures of living in Southern California.

However, for those of you who are gardeners, the equally frigid nights have produced a nightmare. Without the humidity and cloud cover usually experienced this time of year, temperatures have been dipping well below freezing for many nights in a row. Most tropical plants in people’s yards simply melted - burned to a crisp.

The Discovery Center’s native garden, however, has anti-freeze in its veins. Although some plants suffered superficial damage, no deaths resulted. This is one advantage of landscaping with native plants, as they tend to be much harder than plants from other parts of the world.

Unfortunately, the lack of precipitation has created another challenge. Back in November the garden was seeded with about 25 pounds of wildflower seed – enough to make the grounds light up like a rainbow. Many of the seeds started to germinate, but were killed by the dry Santa Ana winds and/or the frost. Some that survived were then eaten by bunnies. Many others have not germinated at all. Our only hope is for lots of rain over the next two months, or we will have to just try again next year. So keep your fingers crossed and let’s all do a rain dance. ☺

amphibian research scientist Jeffrey Lemm will discuss the issue of the world-wide decline in amphibians in a preceding lecture on Wednesday, April 25th. Refer to the Upcoming Events column for more information on these exciting events! ☺

Hurricane on the Bayou

The AHL Foundation is collaborating with the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center in San Diego to promote a new IMAX® film, Hurricane on the Bayou, which documents the impacts of

Hurricane Katrina on New Orleans and the corresponding importance of wetlands. As we all know, wetlands play an important role in ecological health, and by maintaining a national

and international awareness of wetland issues, we optimize the stewardship of our local lagoon. A press release associated with this film is attached to this newsletter.

Caulerpa taxifolia Update

As noted in our previous newsletter, the *Caulerpa taxifolia* (*C.t.*) infestations in Agua Hedionda Lagoon and Huntington Harbor were officially declared eradicated in July, 2006. Work has been underway since December to remove all sand bags and tarps used for eradication in each of the two sites. This work will be completed in the Agua Hedionda Lagoon no later than March 31, since that date marks the contractual end of the Coastal Conservancy Wetlands Recovery Project (WRP) funding for this activity. Additional funding from the State Water Resources Control Board will support one more survey of each site to be conducted in the fall of this year.

Outreach and education activities have been a significant focus during the past three months. The SCCAT committee is developing strategies for discouraging shipment of *C.t.* to California by the aquarium trade. In addition, notification was made to eBay of the legal prohibition of sales of *C.t.* in California. Unfortunately, a survey of aquarium maintenance providers determined that 62% admitted a willingness to dump aquarium water into gutters or nearby waterways. The SCCAT team is adjusting the outreach materials to emphasize the legal prohibition on these actions as well as the environmental impacts. ☺



New Board members Dave Danville and Lori Ruiz enjoy the view

Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation

Board of Directors 2007

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AHLEF & Discovery Center

1580 Cannon Road

Carlsbad, CA 92008

760-804-1969

E-mail:

info@aguahedionda.org

Public Hours:

Monday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Wednesday, Friday

11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Saturday noon – 4:00 pm

Private tours by appointment

Board of Directors Spotlight: Steve Le Page



On any given weekend, you will more than likely find AHLF's Vice-President Steve Le Page poring over the weather forecast and the surf advisories rather than rushing his three-piece suits to the drycleaners. That's because the only suits that Steve regularly wears are wetsuits. As a marine biologist and owner of the biological consulting company M-REP, Steve's daily routine takes him to places that the rest of us might only experience on vacation, if we were really lucky.

His co-workers are more likely to be residents of the sea than the usual two-legged office variety. Harbors and ports that use coastal water property or businesses that use ocean waters for industrial purposes seek out Steve's services and expertise to ascertain and minimize any effect their activities may have on coastal waters. The goal is to ensure that the water discharged back into the ocean does not harm the marine environment and its inhabitants. His firm is also responsible for filing regular reports to appropriate governmental agencies.

Steve's work also takes him into the arena of pharmaceuticals and the development and discovery of new drugs. He produces libraries that contain compounds extracted out from a variety of marine invertebrates such as sea anemones, marine snails, etc., which are then used in research by academia and pharmaceutical companies in their efforts to formulate new cures and drugs.

Steve has been very involved in issues affecting the Agua Hedionda Lagoon, and has conducted environmental impact studies on the lagoon for the past ten years. He was one of two private biological companies contracted to tackle the infestation of the invasive seaweed *Caulerpa taxifolia*, which was discovered in

our lagoon in the year 2000 and has since been eradicated.

Steve will share his vast knowledge of the Agua Hedionda Lagoon and the creatures that live there at a free public lecture on Wednesday, March 21st, from 7-8:30pm at the Discovery Center. Assisting Steve with his presentation will be a variety of live lagoon residents such as octopuses, sea anemones, and several species of fish. Don't miss this amazing educational opportunity! ☞

Photo: Steve working with a common marine invertebrate that is used in genetic research

Discovery Center Launches Birding Programs

May is International Migratory Bird month, and in celebration of our nomadic friends, the Discovery Center will kick off a series of birding classes and workshops which will be held throughout the year. The bird species featured will vary with the season. Check the Events Page for upcoming dates and topics.

group of volunteer docents. If you have a few hours of free time every week and would like to jump on board the ground floor of a very exciting adventure, consider volunteering at the Discovery Center. Some of the areas in which we need assistance include: greeting the general public during open

hours; working in the native garden; trail maintenance; helping out with school programs or special events and working on special projects. We are especially in need of volunteers with accounting and grant-writing or fundraising experience. Call Nikki at 804-1969 if you'd like to help out. ☞

Don't Miss These Upcoming Summer Events

Creatures of the Agua Hedionda Lagoon

Wednesday, March 21, 7 pm - FREE
Marine biologist and AHLF Vice-President Steve LePage presents a fascinating look into the aquatic creatures living in the Agua Hedionda Lagoon. Steve will talk about the ecology and history of the lagoon and will bring a variety of live species for the public to see and touch. All ages will enjoy this special treat!

World Water Day Festival

Sunday, March 25, 10 am-4 pm
Help us celebrate World Water Day at the Agua Hedionda Lagoon with this fun-filled festival featuring talks on water-related themes, water-related crafts for the kids; booths & displays on water issues; tours of the native plant garden; educational shows by Dr. Zoollittle; live wildlife shows; giveaways and free munchies. Also a special preview of the Wild Animal Park's African Rain Dance show! Don't miss this unique opportunity for a greater understanding of our most precious resource!

Endangered Frogs of North County

Wednesday, April 25, 7 pm - FREE
Author and noted amphibian research scientist Jeffrey Lemm will discuss the issue of the world-wide decline in amphibians, with an emphasis on the highly endangered Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog (MYLF). This frog, which once thrived on Palomar Mountain, has only 7 known remaining populations in Southern California and is considered the most endangered frog in the United States and possibly the entire world. Jeff will discuss his on-going efforts to salvage the MYLF through his work at Conservation & Research for Endangered Species (CRES), a branch of the San Diego Zoological Society.

New Birding Programs at the Discovery Center:

Attracting Birds and Butterflies to Your Backyard

Wednesday, May 2, 7 pm - FREE
Learn how to make your backyard a haven for wildlife without relying on messy bird-feeders, which frequently attract rodents and other interlopers. Native plant horticulturist Greg Rubin will demonstrate how, with the right mix of plants, and a birdbath or two, you can create a vibrant, living landscape which will attract a plethora of birds and butterflies using a sustainable native landscape. You will be the envy of all your neighbors and your backyard will never be the same again!

What Bird Was That?

Two part series: Thursdays, May 10 and May 17, 7 pm
Fee per class: \$10 non-members; \$5 members
Field trip: \$10 non-members; \$5 members
Reservations required; call (760) 804-1969 to register

Join Claude Edwards, noted San Diego-area birder and wildlife biologist for this lively and informative introduction to birding. "What bird was that?" is probably the most frequent thought we have when we see a flash of movement or color while outdoors on a hike or in our backyards. This two-part presentation will review interesting and important methods that can be used to better identify and appreciate the birds we encounter. This is a quick lesson to give you knowledge and confidence about our local bird species, including important terminology, aspects of birding important terminology, aspects of bird field marks, behavior and sounds. A guided field trip will follow the 2nd class.
Mr. Edwards is committee chairperson for the Anstine-Audubon Nature Preserve and also gives birding classes at the Cabrillo National Monument, the Sierra Club and the San Diego Natural History Museum. He is also the co-founder of the annual mid-winter San Diego Bird Festival.

Workshops at the Discovery Center:

Frogwatch USA Workshop

Saturday, April 28, 9 am-1 pm - FREE
Call (760) 804-1969 to pre-register

Discovery Center Director and National Wildlife Federation Habitat Steward Nikki Weaver will teach this workshop which trains volunteers to monitor their local neighborhoods and wetland sites for frog and toad populations. You do not have to be a frog or toad expert to make an important contribution; all you need is an interest in frogs and toads and a desire to help make a difference in saving our wildlife.

Indian Basket Weaving Demonstrations

Sunday, March 18, 12-3 pm
Saturday, April 14, 12-3 pm
Fee per class: \$10
Reservations required, space limited; call (760) 804-1969 to register

Join us for a fun and instructional afternoon of basket weaving by the Pa'ia'ia Indian basket weavers. Learn how native plants are used to create intricate baskets, dolls and other ornaments. A \$10.00 donation is requested to cover materials for guests who wish to learn how to make their own baskets. All ages will enjoy this event.

Composting Workshops

Saturdays - March 24, April 21
Workshops will be held 10 am-noon
Ever wonder how to make a compost pile? Want to create nutrient-rich garden soil from food scraps? Then attend a free Vermicomposting (worm) Workshop at the Discovery Center presented by the Solana Center for Environmental Innovation and sponsored by the City of Carlsbad.
Register online at www.solanacenter.org, or call 760-436-7986 x216.

It Takes a Village

With only one employee, it's a very difficult challenge keeping the Discovery Center running smoothly on a daily basis. What makes it possible is the dedication of our small but growing



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